THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): The subsidy given to a LPG cylinder of 14.2kg for domestic use is about Rs. 68 and about Rs. 2.79 per litre of kerosene (S.K.O.).

Approval for the Kandla-Bhatinda Pipeline Project

2793. SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that though Government had approved the Kandla-Bhatinda pipeline project in 1989, yet the contract of the project has not been awarded to any company so far; if so, the reasons for such a long delay;

(b) the names of the companies which participated in the technical and price biddings and the price quoted by each party;

(c) whethr it is also a fact that World Bank had advised Indian Oil Corporation to treat the bidding of a Indo-Italian Company as "non-responsive", if so, the ground on which this advice was made; and

(d) what are the details of norms relating to tenders and which company tops in satisfying those norms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) The award of the contract has not taken place as revised cost estimates for the project are still to be finalised.

(b) The companies who participated in the Bids are: (1) Consortium led by M/s. Skodaexport, Czechoslovakia; and (2) M/s. Snamprogetti, Italy. The price bids have been revised by the parties from time to time.

(c) and (d) The bid of Consortium led by M/s. Snamprogetti, Italy, was considered "non-responsive" in consultation with the World Bank on grounds of deviation taken by the bidder in their technical and commercial conditions, leaving the other bid in the field.

Decline in ONGC Production Target

2794. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ONGC production targets as well as profits have declined during the year 1991-92; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that this down swing is due to inherent structural infirmities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The reasons for shortfall in crude oil production include reservoir constraints, law and order problem in the Norh-Eastern region, etc.

The reasons for decline in profits include reduced production of crude oil; increased input costs; increased recouped cost towards depletion charges and expensing of dry wells; and increased interest cost.

Import and production of LPG

2795. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state;

(a) what is the quantity of LPG produced in the country in 1992 upto December 31st 1992;

(b) what is the quantity of LPG imported during this period; and

(c) what are the steps proposed to be taken to reduce LPG imports in 1993?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM

AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) and (b) The production and import of LPG during the year 1992 was as under;

(1) Domestic production	2625*
(2) Imports	312*

**provisional*

(c) Plans have been drawn to augment the indigenous production of LPG through augmentation of some of the existing sources and cemissioning of new sources.

Proposal for import of Canadian Technology in LPG Field

2796. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have earlier considered importing Canadian technology to facilate separation of LPG at the site of natural gas fields;

(b) if so, what is the status of this proposal; and

(c) what steps are proposed to be taken to enhance utilisation of natural gas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) and (b) There is no such proposal.

(c) Various projects for the compression and transportation of natural gas are being implemented with a view to enhancing the utilisation of gas produced in the country.

Gas Agencies working in Bihar

2797. SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR YADAV 'RAVI': Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of gas agencies working in Bihar in various districts and towns;

(b) whether Government propose to increase the gas agencies in Bihar keeping in view of the demand of L.P.G. consumers;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) 149 as on 1.1.1993.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) In addition to the LPG distributorships pending from previous marketing plans and unpresented district headquarters, 21 LPG distributorships have been planned for the State of Bihar in the marketing plan for the years 1992-93 and 1993-94.

(d) Does not arise.

उत्तम किस्म के मिट्टी के तेल का गुजरात में आबंटन

2798. **श्री गोपालसिंह जी० सोलंकी** क्या पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि गुजरात में 1992-93 के दौरान उत्तम किस्म के मिट्टी के तेल का आबंटन 1991-92 की मांग के आधार पर किया गया है जबकि वर्ष 1992-93 की मांग वर्ष 1991-92 की मांग की तुलना में अधिक थी ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं ; और

(ग) सरकार ने गुजरात में एस० के०ओ० की आपूर्ति बढ़ाने के लिए क्या प्रस्ताव दिए हैं ?

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (कैप्टन सतीश शर्मा) (क) से (ग) एस० के० ओ० देश में एक आभाव पूर्ण उत्पाद है । आयात परिसीमन एवं विदेशी मुद्रा जैसी कठिनाइयों के कारण